



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: December 3, 1999

Contact: Don Elder (202) 205-6740

Release Number: 99-99

Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

VICE PRESIDENT GORE AND SBA ADMINISTRATOR ALVAREZ ANNOUNCE *TRADENET*: 'ONE-STOP' ONLINE EXPORT ASSISTANCE

Washington, DC – Vice President Al Gore and Small Business Administration Administrator Aida Alvarez announced today a new online resource to help small firms. *TradeNet's Export Advisor* (www.tradenet.gov) is a new SBA-led, interagency Internet site designed to provide 'one-stop' access to international trade information for America's small businesses.

"The *Export Advisor* will provide small exporters with a 'one-stop shop' of information and services needed to succeed in today's increasingly global economy," Vice President Gore said. "The Small Business Administration clearly understands that prosperity in the 21st century requires us to both engage the world and take advantage of the opportunities afforded to us in the Information Age."

"The number of small businesses that export has tripled in the last decade," SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez said. "Small businesses now account for almost a third of all U.S. export sales. Nearly 97 percent of U.S. firms that export are small businesses. *TradeNet's Export Advisor* will be an invaluable resource in keeping small businesses in the exporting game."

The new website provides access to a wide range of trade information from government and industry, including:

- Export market research
- Export laws
- Business opportunities
- Research tools

- more -

Page Two

- Financing information
- Federal forms
- Trade shows and events

“E-Commerce has helped level the playing field for small businesses in the global market place,” Administrator Alvarez said. **“Now, we’re using the Internet to give them ‘one-stop’ access to export information.”**

The Government Information Technology Services (GITS) Board funded the development of *TradeNet's Export Advisor*. SBA's federal partners in the website include the Department of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank, the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Agency for International Development.

###

The U.S. Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, the SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses. America's 23 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy.

#